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PROGRAM NBC Nightly News

STATION WRC-TV  
NBC Network

DATE March 10, 1983 7:00 P.M. CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Richard Osborne

TOM BROKAW: The Soviet Union today ordered an American diplomat, Richard Osborne, to leave the country after charging him with spying. The Soviet secret police, the KGB, said it caught Osborne with espionage equipment.

Stan Bernard is in Moscow tonight.

STAN BERNARD: Richard Osborne worked here, the American Embassy in Moscow, as a First Secretary in the Economics Section. The Soviets say Osborne had another job, spying for the U.S.; and they caught him red-handed with the incriminating evidence.

Izvestia announced the arrest of Osborne today, saying he was picked up Monday while carrying special radio transmitting equipment and his notes on paper that would dissolve quickly in water. The Soviets said his radio was capable of transmitting to American communication satellites, but they gave no details on what kind of information Osborne was supposed to be gathering.

It generally known that embassies all over the world are staffed by a substantial number of personnel whose principal role is to gather intelligence. They are spies. Embassies also never acknowledge the role of those personnel.

The American Embassy is not commenting on the arrest of Richard Osborne, except to say that he joined the staff of the embassy last August; and now that he's been declared persona non grata, unacceptable, Osborne, his wife and two children are making preparations to leave very soon.

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